

EMERGENCY SERVICES DIVISION BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY		Procedure No: FR-EMS-3.0.3 Revision No: 3 Page 1 of 3
Title: Routine (Code II) and Emergency (Code III) Ambulance Response Driving Safety		
<p>1.0 PURPOSE</p> <p>1.1 All emergency vehicles should be operated in a manner that provides for the safety of all persons and property. Safe arrival shall always have priority over unnecessary speed and reckless driving, both en route to an emergency incident and enroute to the hospital.</p> <p>1.2 This document details the procedure for routine and emergency ambulance response driving safety.</p> <p>2.0 RESPONSIBILITIES</p> <p>2.1 The driver of the ambulance is responsible to ensure this procedure is followed.</p> <p>3.0 DEFINITIONS</p> <p>None.</p> <p>4.0 PREREQUISITES</p> <p>None.</p> <p>5.0 PRECAUTIONS</p> <p>None</p>		
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6.0 **PROCEDURE**

The New York State Department of Health established a code system for the driving of the ambulance defined as follows:

- 6.1 **Routine Driving (Code II)** - Anytime the ambulance is out of quarters on an assignment other than an emergency run, it shall be considered to be on a Code II. All Code II runs will be made using headlights only - no sirens, beacons or flashers. During Code II response the ambulance should be driven in a safe manner and does not have any emergency vehicle privileges provided in the Vehicle and Traffic Laws.
- 6.2 **Emergency Driving (Code III)** - Shall be limited to response to the scene of what is perceived to be a "true emergency" run which is defined as any situation in which there is a high probability of death or serious injury.

All vehicle and traffic laws shall be followed. Once on the scene, the decision to run Code III to the hospital is based upon the patient's status as being critical or unstable. If the patient's status is potentially unstable, it is a medical judgement call. If the patient's status is stable, he/she should be transported Code II to the hospital. All Code III runs will be made using headlights, emergency lights and the siren.

- 6.3 A prompt and safe response shall be attained by:
 - 6.3.1 Knowing where you are going.
 - 6.3.2 Leaving quarters in a standard manner:
 - 6.3.2.1 Quickly boarding vehicle.
 - 6.3.2.2 All personnel on board, seated, and belted.
 - 6.3.3 Driving defensively and professionally at reasonable speeds.
 - 6.3.4 Using warning devices to move around traffic and to request the right-of-way in a safe and predictable manner.
- 6.4 **Emergency Driving (Code III) Criteria**
 - 6.4.1 The first arriving Emergency Medical Technician shall be responsible for determining the response status for any additional ambulance service vehicles going to the scene of the call.

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6.4.2 The ambulance shall not exceed posted speed limits by more than ten (10) miles per hour.

6.4.3 The ambulance shall not exceed posted speed limits when proceeding through intersections with the green light.

6.4.4 When the ambulance approaches a red light, a stop sign or a railroad crossing, they must come to a complete stop before proceeding with caution.

6.4.5 When traffic conditions require the ambulance to travel in the oncoming traffic lanes, the maximum speed is twenty (20) miles per hour.

6.4.6 When the ambulance uses the median, turning lane, or an oncoming traffic lane to approach intersections, they must come to a complete stop before proceeding through the intersection with caution.

7.0 IMPLEMENTATION AND TRAINING

None.

8.0 REFERENCES

None.

9.0 ATTACHMENTS

None